

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 22, 27-33, and 51-53 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 5-7, 9, 22, 27-30, and 51-53 have been amended and claims 4, 8, 23-26, and 34-50 have been canceled. Rejoinder of claim 33 is respectfully requested upon allowance of claim 22.

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the indication that claims 8, 9 and 26-28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to include claim 8 (and intervening claim 4) and claim 22 has been amended to include claim 26 (and intervening claims 23-25). Accordingly, claims 1 and 22 and their dependents are in condition for allowance. Also, claim 51 has been amended in a similar manner as claim 1 (i.e., to include claims 4 and 8) and should also be in condition for allowance.

Claims 52 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 52 and 53 have been amended for clarity purposes to overcome the rejection. Withdrawal of the §112, second paragraph, rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 31, 32 and 51-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Heine et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,675,919). Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Magidson (U.S. Patent No. 5,829,062). Claims 1-7, 23-25, 29, 30 and 51-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Magidson in view of Heine. As noted above, independent claims 1, 22, and 51 have been amended to include allowable subject matter to overcome all rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.


Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

LANG et al.
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Respectfully submitted,

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